

A1 amended  
wherein the sealing layer substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate.

A2  
4. (Amended) The magnetic recording medium according to claim 3, wherein said NiNb is amorphous NiNb.

A3  
13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said NiNb comprises amorphous NiNb.

A4  
20. (Amended) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising, in this order:  
a substrate comprising Li;  
a sealing means for substantially preventing migration of Li from the substrate; and  
a magnetic layer.

#### REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of April 20, 2001, when the Examiner said that a claim combining the limitations of original claims 1, 3 and 4 would be allowable. Therefore, claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 3, which depends from claim 1. Also, similarly, claim 13 is amended to depend from claim 12. In light of the amendments of claims 4 and 13, these claims should be allowable.

Claims 1 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendment.

The Examiner states that these claims are "incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements." Persons skilled in this art would have recognized that the sealing layer of claim 1 and the sealing means of claim 20 lie in between the substrate and the magnetic layer because the sealing layer/sealing means substantially prevents migration of Li